

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete If Known	
				Application Number	10 / 756 971
				Filing Date	January 13, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Bianchi
				Group Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	1	of	2	Attorney Docket No.	4002-3468

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ²	Document Number Number-Kind Code ³ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
JB		4,309,488	01-05-1982	Heide et al.	
		4,626,392	12-02-1986	Kondo et al.	
		4,636,217	01-13-1987	Ogilvie et al.	
		4,636,314	03-31-1987	Takagi et al.	
		4,687,675	08-18-1987	Nakano et al.	
		4,714,469	12-22-1987	Kenna	
		4,722,870	02-02-1988	White	
		4,820,305	04-11-1989	Harms et al.	
		4,834,757	05-30-1989	Brantingan	
		4,878,915	11-07-1989	Brantingan	
		4,917,703	04-17-1990	Albrektsson	
		4,950,296	08-21-1990	McIntyre	
		4,961,740	10-09-1990	Ray et al.	
		4,976,738	12-11-1990	Frey et al.	
		5,002,583	03-26-1991	Pitaru et al.	
		5,015,247	05-14-1991	Michelson	
		5,026,373	06-25-1991	Ray et al.	
		5,055,104	10-08-1991	Ray	
		5,258,029	11-02-1993	Chu et al.	
		5,282,861	02-01-1994	Kaplan	
		5,306,302	04-26-1994	Bauer et al.	
		5,306,303	04-26-1994	Lynch	
		5,330,826	07-19-1994	Taylor et al.	
		5,346,492	09-13-1994	Morgan	
		5,458,638	10-17-1995	Kuslich et al.	
		5,489,308	02-06-1996	Kuslich et al.	
		5,514,180	05-07-1996	Heggeness et al.	
		5,591,235	01-07-1997	Kuslich	
JB		5,593,409	01-14-1997	Michelson	

Examiner Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date Considered	4-9-06
--------------------	--------------------	-----------------	--------

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

* Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION LIST

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10 / 756, 971
				Filing Date	January 13, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Bianchi
				Group Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket No.	4002-3468

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
<i>ds</i>		5,728,159	03-17-1998	Stoever et al.	
		5,972,368	10-26-1999	McKay	
		5,810,819	09-22-1998	Errico et al.	
		5,814,084	09-29-1998	Grivas et al.	
		5,814,084	09-29-1998	Grivas et al.	
		6,017,343	01-25-2000	Rogozinski	
		6,033,438	03-07-2000	Bianchi et al.	
		6,033,438	03-07-2000	Bianchi et al.	
		6,111,164	08-29-2000	Rainey et al.	
		6,120,506	09-19-2000	Kohrs et al.	
		6,258,125	07-10-2001	Paul et al.	
		6,391,058	05-21-2002	Kuslich et al.	
		6,409,765	06-25-2002	Bianchi et al.	
<i>ds</i>		6,500,206	12-31-2002	Bryan	

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					77
Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s) publisher city and/or country where published			
<i>ds</i>		Bone Graft Surgery in Disease, Injury and Deformity; Fred H. Albee, M.D.; Published by D. Appleton-Century Company, Copyright 1940.			
		"Laparoscopic Bone Dowel Surgical Technique", Sofamor Danek, Memphis, Tennessee, 1995.			
		"Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation" Brochure, Apr. 1996.			
		"Threaded Bone Dowel" by LISpine 1997 Hohmann Enterprises Inc., Apr. 1997.			
<i>ds</i>		"New and Innovative Fusion Techniques" by John J. Vaughan, MD The Kentucky Spines Inst., Dec. 1998.			

Examiner Signature	<i>Angel B. J. J.</i>	Date Considered	4-8-06
--------------------	-----------------------	-----------------	--------

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinda Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 601.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.18 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION LIST

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.



Substitute for form 1449A/PTO				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Application Number	10/756,971
				Filing Date	January 13, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Bianchi
				Group Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	1	of	3	Attorney Docket No.	4002-3468

d						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.†	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	
		Number-Kind Code* (if known)				
AS		3,486,505	05-1967	Morrison		
		3,848,601	11-1974	Ma		
		4,545,374	10-1985	Jacobson		
		4,736,738	04-1988	Lipovsek et al.		
		4,743,256	05-1988	Brantigan		
		4,877,020	10-1989	Vich		
		5,062,845	11-1991	Kuslich		
		5,190,548	03-1993	Davis		
		5,250,061	10-1993	Michelson		
		5,306,309	04-1994	Wagner et al.		
		5,329,846	07-1994	Bonutti		
		5,423,825	06-1995	Levine		
		5,423,855	06-1995	Marienne		
		5,425,772	06-1995	Brantigan		
		5,443,514	08-1995	Steffee		
		5,445,639	08-1995	Kuslich et al.		
		5,458,642	10-1995	Beer et al.		
		5,484,437	01-1996	Michelson		
		5,489,307	02-1996	Kuslich et al.		
		5,499,984	03-1996	Steiner		
		5,609,636	03-1997	Kohrs et al.		
		5,645,598	07-1997	Brosnahan, III		
		5,669,909	09-1997	Zdeblick et al.		
		5,709,683	01-1998	Bagby		
		5,716,355	02-1998	Jackson et al.		
		5,720,749	02-1998	Rupp		
		5,741,253	04-1998	Michelson		
		5,766,253	06-1998	Brosnahan, III		
AS		5,782,830	07-1998	Farris		

Examiner Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date Considered	7-9-06
--------------------	--------------------	-----------------	--------

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 608. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

*Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). † See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 801.04. ‡ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). § For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ¶ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. * Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION LIST

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.



Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/756,971
				Filing Date	January 13, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Bianchi
				Group Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	2	of	3	Attorney Docket No.	4002-3468

d					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
JS		5,857,995	01-1999	Thomas et al.	
		5,904,719	05-1999	Errico et al.	
		5,989,289	11-1999	Coates	
		6,033,830	03-2000	Bianchi	
		6,096,081	08-2000	Grivas	
		6,210,506	09-2000	Kohrs et al.	
JS		6,375,681	04-2002	Truscott	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Application of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	†
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known)					
JS		EP 0 077 159 A		04-1983			
		GB 2 207 607 A		02-1989			
		EP 0 307 241		03-1989			
		DE 37 41 493 A1		06-1989			
		EP 0 392 076		10-1990			
		WO 95/08306		03-1995			
		WO 95/15133		06-1995			
		WO 96/22747		08-1996			
		WO 96/40013		12-1996			
		WO 97/13378		04-1997			
		WO 97/15248		05-1997			
		WO 97/25945		07-1997			
		WO 98/17209		04-1998			
		WO 98/17330		04-1998			
JS		WO 01/70144		09-2001			

Examiner Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date Considered	4-9-06
--------------------	--------------------	-----------------	--------

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION LIST

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number



Substitute for form 1449A/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (use as many sheets as necessary)				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/756,971
				Filing Date	January 13, 2004
				First Named Inventor	Bianchi
				Group Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	3	of	3	Attorney Docket No.	4002-3468

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No.†	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s) publisher city and/or country where published	
<i>JK</i>		AcroMed Spine Tools, <i>PLIG Instruments</i> (undated)	
		AcroMed, <i>Brantigan I/F Cage</i> , (undated)	
		AcroMed, <i>Brantigan I/F Cage™ for PLIF</i> (1991)	
		Sofamor Danek, <i>Surgical Technique Using Bone Dowel Instrumentation for Posterior Approach</i> , LIT.PLIF.ST96 (1996)	
		Sofamor Danek, <i>Surgical Tips Posterior Approach</i> (1998)	
<i>JK</i>		University of Florida Tissue Bank, Inc. <i>Allograft Catalog</i> (1998)	

Examiner Signature	<i>[Signature]</i>	Date Considered	4-9-06
--------------------	--------------------	-----------------	--------

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

* Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). † See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ‡ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). § For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ¶ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. * Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION LIST